

**John Day/Snake
Resource Advisory Council
March 30 & 31, 2000
Pendleton, Oregon**

Thursday, March 30 Red Lion Inn, Pendleton

In attendance: Earle Rother-Facilitator

Peggy Diegan-Recorder

John Day/Snake RAC Members

Federal Officials

Adriane P. Borgias	Jay Carr	Juan Palma	Jeff Blackwood
Terry Drever-Gee	Mae Jeanette Henning	Karyn Wood	Tina Welch
Michael Hayward	Robert Messinger		
Frank McMurray Jr	Shirley Muse		
Timothy Joe Stearns	John Tanaka		
Berta Youtie			

Absent:

Manford Isley	Craig Lacy	Bonnie Wood
Michael Farrow	Robert Morse	

Guests

Dan Wood	Troy Nichols	Rob Lamb
Ed Hart	Allen Hart	

AGENDA/OBJECTIVE REVIEW - INTRODUCTIONS - Bob Messinger, Earle Rother

Bob Messinger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Earle Rother reviewed the agenda. Introductions were done by RAC members, federal officials and guests. New RAC member Tim Stearns was introduced to the members. He works for the National Wildlife Federation Northwestern Natural Resources Center in Seattle, WA. Tim represents the Public-at-Large category. Juan announced that he would be discussing Land Exchange during lunch with anyone that wanted to join him in the Red Lion Coffee Garden.

HELLS CANYON SUBGROUP UPDATE - Rod Lamb, Mike Hayward, Karyn Wood

The group developed a new consensus concept because of the diversity of the group. This new

concept slowed the process down. The group chose a topic and only referenced the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Group used team teaching by interest and expertise. Then reported to the group as a whole. The group selected weeds and grazing allotments as their first topic. Final recommendations will be given at the next meeting of RAC. The recommendations will be very broad and general, not scientific.

The subgroup decided they are a citizen group not a scientific group. Messenger asked the group to come up with recommendations if the group thinks that the RAC needs to set up a scientific/technical committee for review.

Action item RAC is requesting a full set of minutes, draft document, and DEIS. A sign-up sheet for this was sent around for those that wanted to review. Recommendations will also be mailed to RAC in advance of the next meeting.

HELLS SUBGROUP MEMBERSHIP - Rob Lamb

One member resigned in the private lands area. Vacancy is out now, should have info on this in May. The subgroup currently has monthly meetings. Terms expire each year. There are eighteen members in the group, including four new members. Some additional terms will be up in August.

JOHN DAY RIVER SUBGROUP UPDATE - Dan Woods

The John Day River consists of 550 miles of river system of which only a part is designated Wild and Scenic River. Five partners: State of OR, John Day River Coalition of Counties, BIA, Warm Springs Tribes, and BLM. Draft plan was released with Public comment period ending March 3; they're where 503 public comments were received. 50-60% of these comments were form letters. Subgroup meets April 4-5. Issues to be addressed at that meeting includes: voting methods, guides and outfitters, agriculture uses, and grazing. April 13 and 14, Dan meets with the five partners. Lack of agreement on any item will be elevated to a higher level. Plan due to be completed by July 15. The Subgroup discusses every multiple use you can find on the John Day River including a monitoring plan and cumulative effects.

Action Item After the subgroup meeting on the 3 and 4 of April, Dan will email or fax info to all RAC members and they will respond to Juan with their recommendations. Juan will collate the answers and send the consolidated response to Dan by April 12.

Action Item Juan informed the group that Craig Lacy sent a letter of resignation to the RAC. Craig Lacy's slot will be recruited by Juan.

SOCIAL CIRCLE MAP - Juan Palma

The purpose of the map is to insure representation in all areas of the social circle. The map idea originated from the Preistor and Kent trainers at the last RAC meeting is where the map idea

originated from. Earl Rother said the map is being used in the Blue Mtn. strategy. Lower Grande Ronde Basin is basically centered around the Enterprise circle and lower John Day. The map compares areas and shows differences in various communities. The Social Circle Map is very general using local knowledge, not data knowledge. Juan suggested the map be used as background information. Tina Welch announced that Central OR is going forward with a similar map. (Handout 1)

Acton Item Include a clearer disclaimer on the map. Juan and Bob Messinger will work on the wording of a disclaimer. The map's purpose is to advise federal agencies (BLM and Forest Service). The map should be for internal use only for RAC members and should not be shared with the public until a better disclaimer is put on the map.

INTERIOR COLUMBIA BASIN ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROJECT - ICBEMP SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT BRIEFING - Geoff Middaugh

There have been 83,000 comments received on the supplemental draft to date. The 120-day public comment period is from April to July. The purpose of the public comment period is to look at the Basin from 30,000 feet and identify ecological and socioeconomic risks and opportunities. Restoration activities are intended to address and benefit multiple resources and at the same time consider community needs. Intent is to actively manage to secure a network of connected habitats.

Geoff showed the three alternatives. Chapter four has the effect analysis. Science Advisory Group assessed the projected biological, ecological, and socioeconomic effects of the DEIS. ICBEMP's preferred alternative is S2. Short term is 10 years; long term is 100 years. S2 emerged as the most effective, followed by S3 and then S1.

FOREST HEALTH SUBGROUP UPDATE - Terry Drever-Gee, Mike Hayward, Jeff Blackwood

Jeff Blackwood - Control activities need to happen as soon as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is signed. Wallowa-Whitman has two sites that need tussock control activities. Consultation with USFW needs to be completed and funding secured in a potential lynx habitat.

Umatilla, Malheur, Wallowa-Whitman and BLM are moving ahead with projects within the Blue Mtn. Demo Area. Risk assessment on Grande Ronde will be completed by June. Draft restoration strategy finalized by June. Need longer term strategy to measure progress over time. By next year the projects will not only include FS and BLM but also other private and public land owners. (Handout 2)

Acton Item Need feedback from the RAC on this restoration strategy by April or May. Include this topic in next RAC meeting.

Consider having one to two hour panel discussions at the August RAC meeting consisting of NMFS, USFWS, EPA, FS, BLM representatives. Ask other RAC's to participate in this joint ESA Forum. Objective is for panel to provide suggestions on how the RAC's could provide

advice to federal land managers.

Action Item

Jeff Blackwood, Bonnie Wood, Karyn Wood, and Juan Palma to put together a list of questions to ask the panel. This panel would give a legislative history on the intent of the ESA law, law and regulation summary and how the process works.

The next meeting of the Blue Mtn. Demo Area Governors Panel is in Silverlake. Group formed to keep tabs on demo area and monitor Governors panel.

SAGE GROUSE UPDATE, ROADLESS AREA UPDATE, OWYHEE LAWSUIT UPDATE, OTHERS - Juan Palma, Jeff Blackwood

Owyhee report—Juan Palma - River corridor in lawsuit is 186 miles long. Designation is for outstanding remarkable values that includes scenic, recreation, and geology. How are we going to protect and use the river? BLM created a management plan. It was challenged immediately, BLM was told to do an EIS. Grazing is now cut off due to the injunction placed by Judge Redden. Suggestion from the group is to borrow scientists to do the necessary studies. Court is not bound by NEPA. Could just order us to do something?

Report on Sage Grouse (Handout 3)- Juan Palma presented a draft interim sage grouse guideline for Oregon and Washington. These guidelines were developed by an interdisciplinary and inter-agency (BLM, OR Dept of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Department of State Lands) team in order to get a head start on management of habitats to avoid listing of sage grouse as an endangered species. Juan passed out this document for the RAC to review today and make recommendations at the RAC meeting tomorrow.

Roadless Area Update--Jeff Blackwood briefed the RAC on the roads policy that included the roadless areas and areas not roaded now or inventoried. There is a need to develop how to manage these areas. Outside of these areas there are smaller roadless areas that also need to be managed. The schedule is for the draft EIS to come out the first of May with a 90-day review time. There are 40 million acres of larger areas and 20 million combined smaller areas. Still, need to develop definition of the criteria for the smaller sections of roadless areas. Currently there are roadless areas with roads in them. New roadless areas are not being created. ATV's are not allowed on regular roads. There is no mixed vehicle use in OR. However, OR passed a law this year to allow mixed vehicle use on a single lane unpaved roads.

ADJOURN - Messenger at 4:30 pm

Friday, March 31

Red Lion Inn, Pendleton

In attendance: Earle Rother-Facilitator

Peggy Diegan-Recorder

John Day/Snake RAC Members

Federal Officials

Adriane P. Borgias Jay Carr
Terry Drever-Gee Mae Jeanette Henning

Juan Palma Jeff Blackwood
Tina Welch Penny Dunn-
 Woods

Michael Hayward Shirley Muse
Frank McMurray Jr Berta Youtie
John Tanaka

Absent:

Manford Isley Tom Schmidt
Michael Farrow Robert Morse
Craig Lacy Timothy Joe Stearns
Robert Messinger

Karyn Wood Bonnie Wood

Guests

Ed Hart Dorothy Mason Rick Forsman Hugh Barrett

AGENDA/OBJECTIVE REVIEW - Terry Drever-Gee, Earle Rother

Terry Drever-Gee(acting for Bob Messinger) called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Terry and Earle Rother determined that there was not a quorum present, therefore, the group could not vote on any issues.

MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes will need to be approved at the next meeting because of lack of a quorum.

ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP - Earle Rother

Earle reviewed each of the action items from the December meeting. The actions were as follows:

- Lyn Craig vacancy nominees were deferred to the next meeting.
- Jeff Blackwood to send out a copy of business plan and spreadsheet showing status of projects to RAC members.
- Sage Grouse Guideline completed
- Rangeland Management Program
- Social Circle Map completed
- Jeff Blackwood to send plan on the lynx to all

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT EFFECTS

- Panel discussion at August meeting consisting of FS, B.M., USW., EPA, (NFS)National Marine Service, Suzanne Rainville, experts to come and talk to us to define and clarify ESA.
- Two points, education of RAC and dialogue with those folks for solutions to streamline the process.
- Invite other RAC's.

Action item Jeff Blackwood and Juan Palma select a panel to present the ESA as objectively as possible.

BLM FERC PROPOSAL - Dorothy Mason

Dorothy Mason - re-licensing of 193 miles of the Snake River (Handout 4) for Idaho Power is in this proposal. Issue paper with desired feature conditions has been completed and given to Idaho Power for review. (Handout 5) Next step is to take a look at any new data provided by Idaho Power and how it will relate to the original data. Seven tribes are included in consultation. Final license applications need to be filed by July 2003.

Vicki Kellerman has a recreation proposal for these sites. Her analysis will be out next week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Hart, member of the East Oregon Mining Association is concerned about page 5 of the SEA and wants answers. When miners put in plans of operations, they are being held up by the Biological Opinion process. Frustration on not getting answers. Also on page 8 why doesn't the National Marine Fisheries have a law that makes them give an opinion in a timely manner. If there is a law, what is the time limit to make an opinion? Miners are held up for several years because of waiting for the BO to be done. Wallowa County is in the process of asking for a congressional inquiry into these mining issues. Is this a staffing issue? Miners will be informed about participating in this process when it is in place. The mining association is requesting our help in getting the answers. There will be a mining meeting April 7 in Baker City to discuss these issues.

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE BLM/FS RANGE PROGRAM - Hugh Barrett BLM, Rick Forsman FS

National Forest Grazing Program history(Handout 6), 1970s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), allowed more public involvement in decisions, better disclosure of effects and better documentation of decisions (Handout 7). There are continuing challenges to management with shrinking budgets and ESA consultation needs. Hugh Barrett BLM is requesting comments on the sage grouse paper from the RAC. The challenge is to figure how to rotate the grazing to not impact the riparian areas and fish spawning in the spring and fall. Also nesting habitats for the birds, etc.

GENERAL ISSUES - Juan Palma

SAGE GROUSE (Handout 3) Document does not have to go through the NEPA process currently but NEPA may need to be done in some instances. Is this rule, policy, mandatory or not? The document asks for voluntary compliance to avoid the sage grouse listing. Without this document sage grouse will most likely be listed. The end of 18 months would then need to do a NEPA document. Respond individually to Juan so he can package with the cover letter to forward to the BLM State Office.

Action Item

Deadline for these endorsements to Juan by April 14. Folks need to be careful and not say that this is a RAC endorsement but from individuals that belong to the RAC. There is not a quorum present so we cannot vote for a RAC endorsement

WEEDS--Jeff Blackwood, Jay Carr-invasive species cooperative service partnership (counties plus other agencies-BLM) to do research-pieces to look at the 10 top species, risk rating, map, monitoring and management and to fill knowledge gaps. There is \$10,000,000 in grant money available for this across the country.
Request for grant proposals.

ACTION ITEM CLOSEOUT - Earle Rother

- After the John Day River Subgroup, Dan will be emailing or faxing information to all RAC members. Juan will send a consolidated response to Dan by April 12.
- Craig Lacy sent a letter of resignation to the RAC. Craig Lacy's slot will be recruited by Juan.
- Juan and Bob will create a better disclaimer for the Social Circle Map.
- Need feedback from the RAC on the Grande Ronde restoration strategy by April or May, and include the Demo discussion at the next RAC meeting.
- Jeff Blackwood and Juan Palma to select panel of folks to show how the ESA process works at the August RAC meeting.
- Deadline for Sage Grouse Guidelines endorsements to Juan by April 14.

NEWS RELEASE - The RAC decided a news release was not necessary.

OTHER ITEMS

- Next RAC meeting May 23-24 with a field trip on the first day to the Bob Morse Ranch. Second day-Enterprise FS 8:00 am, done by 3:00 or before to end.
- Hells Canyon Subgroup new member nomination.
- John Day River Subgroup-formalize subgroups recommendations.
- BMDA-restoration strategy/business plan/risk assessment/2001 projects.
- Items for August meeting-Sept 6-7 in Walla/Walla. ESA panel on the first day at 10 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Juan Palma
Designated Federal Official

Date

Robert Messinger
RAC Chair

Date